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Columbia Chronicle (03/09/1998)

Columbia College Chicago

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The Chronicle

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

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March 9, 1998

Columbia staff implicated in Clemente controversy

By James Boozier
Special Sections Editor

As a special state legislative committee investigates the misuse of state poverty program money known as Chapter 1 funds at Clemente High School, the investigation centers around a Columbia part-time faculty member, Jose Lopez.

The probe is looking into alleged funneling of \$750,000 to \$1 million in speculative school expenditures.

More than half of Clemente's 2,500 students qualify for Chapter 1 funds designed to help educate children from poor families.

Lopez has been a part-time instructor at Columbia since the fall of 1992, working in the liberal education department.

The state began their investigation a year ago after the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported that the funds were being misused by Clemente officials to fund political events to free convicted Puerto Rican independence movement terrorists.

Lopez is the first secretary of the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional Puertorriqueno, known as MLN. The federal law enforcement officials describe it as the political front of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional, FALN, a terrorist group devoted to ending the U.S. commonwealth status of Puerto Rico.

However, law enforcement officials have never proven a connection between the MLN and FALN.

Several individuals who testified during the first two days of the state hearing at the Thompson Center last week implicated Lopez influence over Clemente's

Local School Council, or LSC, and two of the school's former principals.

Patricia Boland, an English teacher at Clemente for 18 years and a LSC teacher representative from 1991 to 1993, said that Lopez gave head signals and directions to LSC members during meetings.

At the hearing, some members of the audience reacted unfavorably when Boland said "He [Lopez] was running the show."

Barbara Radner, director for the Center for Urban Education at DePaul University, testified that Chapter 1 funds were "allocated for activities not directly related to learning."

Lopez was in attendance on both days of the hearing and was denied his request to read a statement before the panel.

The *Chronicle's* efforts to reach Lopez for comment were unsuccessful.

Lopez has been reported by other media outlets as saying that the allegations against him were "nothing but lies" and that this entire investigation is nothing more than "a witch hunt."

Lopez also stated that the hearing was a political exercise against Puerto Rican independence.

"This is a charade. These are pre-determined witnesses and pre-determined conclusions," said Lopez in published reports.

After the first round of state hearings, several members of the panel stated that they were still unclear if any laws had been broken and that they hoped to hear from more witnesses in future hearings later this week.

The state focuses on a Columbia instructor as it investigates an alleged funneling of education funds toward Puerto Rico independence movement



Photo by Vince Johnson/Chronicle

'Columbia: From dawn to dusk'

Special Pullout Section

Advocates: 'morning after' pills reduce teen pregnancies

By Jodie Guardi
Staff Writer

Planned Parenthood held a media briefing last week in an effort to educate college-age women about emergency contraception.

"Eighteen to 24-year-olds have the highest incidence of unintended pregnancies, making college students a desired age range to educate about emergency contraception," said Margo Truett, Planned Parenthood's assistant director of family planning.

The methods to achieve emergency contraception include use of a combination of oral contraceptives, called the Yuzpe method, more commonly referred

to as the morning after pill. These pills are a combination of danazol, synthetic estrogens and conjugated estrogens.

The first two tablets are ingested exactly 12 hours apart from the second two pills, for a total of four tablets.

The morning after pill can work in three different ways to prevent pregnancy: It can prevent the ovary from releasing an egg; suppress the hormones necessary for pregnancy; and prevent the fertilized egg from implanting on the uterine wall. Also, a routine pelvic exam is encouraged, but not required.

There are some common side effects, including nausea, vomiting, breast ten-

See Pill, page 3

Columbia attempts to adjust to its remarkable growth

By Tracey E.Thames
Staff Writer

In a theater packed mostly with faculty members, Columbia President John Duff and other administrators debated for an hour on the pros and cons of the college's exceptional growth of recent years.

"It's a different year at Columbia," announced Duff during a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, March 4, in Hokin Hall.

Duff characterized the school year as "different" because of the increases in the number of part-time faculty and the deficit Columbia will

incur the first time in six years.

The good news is the endowment growth is up to \$40 million from \$7 million just a couple of years ago, Duff said.

Enrollment is also at an all-time high this year, leaving the college with the challenge of supply and demand.

"It's like raising a child...it's a blessing and a curse!" said Mark Kelly, associate provost of planning. "The issue of growth has its strengths and weaknesses. Columbia is bursting at the seams; we must match this growth with the space, equipment and quality education each student is

deserved."

Columbia has adopted the Loeb Schlossman and Hackl program, a forecasting tool, that will be effective both long and short term, Kelly said.

"This program is capable of projections for the year 2000, including project space, facility planning and development," he said.

Fund-raising dramatically increased, from \$4.9 million in August 1995 to a whopping \$7.4 million in August of 1997. This due partly to the grand opening of the Science and Dance Institute and week-

See Growth, page 3

Features

"Warrior Queens" ventures into the historic depths of female rulers with its five-woman ensemble at the Footsteps Theatre company, 5230 N. Clark St.

The show, a highly physical production that centers around heavy stage combat and violence, opened March 1 and runs through April 19.

Theater review on Page 10



Photo by Sue Ferrara

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Sara on March madness

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Campus News Around The Nation

Former Rhode Island fraternity brother could face jail time for sex video tape

College Press Service

A former student of the University of Rhode Island in Kingston was convicted of breaking the state's wiretap law when he videotaped himself having sex with a woman in his fraternity house. A jury also found 22-year-old Jeffrey O'Brien guilty of conspiracy for asking a friend to hide in his closet in the Alpha Epsilon Pi house and tape the 1996 liaison with a then-21-year-old woman who was also a student at the university. She testified during the two-day trial that she agreed to meet O'Brien in his room. O'Brien, who was convicted Feb. 26, is scheduled for sentencing April 24. He faces up to five years for each crime. He and cameraman Jordan Smith, 21, were kicked out of the fraternity and suspended from the university.

"We're not interested in discussing this matter until we see what happens next," said a student who refused to give his name but identified himself as the fraternity's president. "All I can say is that those two are no longer affiliated with us."

Smith pleaded no contest in January to conspiracy and wiretapping. He was sentenced to 18 months probation and ordered to pay a \$900 fine. According to news reports, Smith testified that O'Brien asked him to tape the sexual encounter. Smith said the filming went well until the woman spied the camera's lens poking out of a closet. Smith testified that the woman wrestled the tape from him and left the house with it. Rhode Island law prohibits the recording of a conversation without the consent of both parties if the recording is intended to break another law. Washington County prosecutor Kathleen Hagerty successfully argued that in this case O'Brien's videotape also violated privacy law. But Robert Mann, O'Brien's attorney, argued that O'Brien could not have broken the wiretap law because he did not intend to record sound. Mann said the tape also fell short of violating the woman's privacy because it wasn't meant for anyone other than O'Brien to watch. Smith testified that he tried to get the tape back because other fraternity brothers were afraid it contained footage of them smoking marijuana. Smith testified that he went to the woman's house and grabbed the tape while apologizing to her. He said he managed to crush the tape before the woman and her roommate grabbed it from him. However, the woman had the tape repaired before she took it to police.

Researchers find physiological link between lesbians and gay men

College Press Service

AUSTIN, Tex. — The inner ears of bisexual women and lesbians function more like the inner ears of men than those of heterosexual women, researchers at the University of Texas at Austin

report.

Psychology professor Dennis McFadden and research associate Edward Pasanen say their findings represent the first physiological difference between heterosexual and homosexual women to be documented. McFadden and Pasanen exposed 237 women and men to faint, clicking sounds and used a microphone to measure the echoes those sounds made in each person's inner ear. Previous research has shown that louder echoes correspond with a stronger ability to hear weak sounds. Women tend to have louder inner-ear echoes than men.

The Texas study noted that 57 heterosexual women produced louder echoes than the 61 bisexual and homosexual women studied. McFadden and Pasanen say the inner-ear differences indicate other physiological differences in the central nervous system between heterosexual and homosexual women. The researchers suggest the differences may be because homosexual women and bisexual women were exposed in the womb to high levels of masculinizing hormones called androgens.

British students protest tuition charges

College Press Service

CHICAGO — University students across Britain walked out of classrooms March 4 to protest their government's decision to start charging them tuition in the fall.

The National Union of Students claimed more than 2 million students responded to its appeal for a walkout, but British news reports said that figure could not be confirmed.

Later this year, the British government intends to charge an annual tuition of \$1,700 to all but the poorest students, while also phasing out students' cost-of-living stipends.

Northwestern U. set to close its dental school

College Press Service

Chicago — Northwestern University's dental school will close in 2001. The closing, scheduled for next year, has been delayed to allow the school's 350 dental students to graduate, university officials said during their March 2 announcement.

Officials also said Illinois' only private dental school is closing because it has had a difficult time competing financially with that state's public dental schools, which get state subsidies of as much as \$60,000 per student each year. The state's two public dental schools are at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

To accommodate some of the 54 faculty members who will be displaced by the dental school's closure, Northwestern's medical school plans to open a new institute of dental science and engineering.

(C) 1998 College Press Service

White House heightens student loan debate

By Tim Ryan
Reuters

NEW YORK - The already politicized battle over a pending U.S. student loan rate cut has become an even bigger political football now that the White House has weighed in, parties involved in the debate said.

Barnak Nassirian, policy analyst for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), said the debate has always been political but added that a Clinton administration proposal offered this week has further raised its profile.

The debate centers on a provision in the 1993 Student Loan Reform Act slated to shift on July 1 the student loan interest rate index from the 91-day Treasury bill plus 3.1 percent to the 10-year Treasury plus 1.0 percent.

Lenders have voiced concern that such a change might impede their profitability and force some smaller lenders out of the student loan business.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Vice President Al Gore offered the administration's compromise, which would keep the interest rate pegged to the shorter-term 91-day Treasury but tighten the spread to 2.3 percent over instead of 3.1 percent over the T-bill. In addition to that, the maximum interest rate banks could charge would be 7.0 percent.

Representatives of colleges and universities have been meeting with lender representatives in negotiations to strike a compromise they can take to Capitol Hill in hopes Congress can amend the law before the effective date.

While Gore offered the deal as a compromise that would aid students without hurting lenders, some banking lobbyists saw it as a

blow to their interest.

The Independent Bankers Association of America (IBAA) called the Treasury report an administration recommendation of "a substantially lower interest rate," but Nassirian said the Treasury report was neutral and simply used by the White House in making its own proposal.

The report was undertaken to study the impact of the July 1 change on banks.

Mark Scanlan, an IBAA lobbyist, said the proposal essentially cuts lender yields by 80 basis points, which would force many small lenders out of business.

"We don't view this as much of a compromise," said Scanlan, adding that counterproposals from banker members would likely be offered to the House Education Committee.

Nassirian said he has so far completed

only a preliminary review of the White House proposal and AASCU is not yet ready to endorse it.

John Dean, special counsel to the Consumer Banking Association, told Reuters in an interview that the issue has created a political dilemma for Congress. The administration and many on Capitol Hill have made lower costs for student loans a priority.

On the other hand, Dean said, Congress does not want to cut lender yields to a level that would be unprofitable.

Some \$34 billion in student loans were given out last year.

More than two-thirds of that amount was provided through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), which partners with private lenders to provide loans.

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State court rules student newspaper didn't defame college administrator

By Christine Tatum
College Press Service

Virginia's Supreme Court ruled Friday that Virginia Tech's student newspaper didn't defame school administrator Sharon Yeagle when it referred to her in print as the "Director of Butt Licking."

Student journalists at the "Collegiate Times" are breathing a little easier because of the court's 7-2 decision, but the dispute has reiterated the importance of proof-reading before going to press.

"Let's just say they have made some changes so the chances of this happening again aren't so great," said James R. Creekmore, attorney for the student paper.

Students said dummy type accidentally made it into print, but Yeagle, assistant to the university's vice president, didn't buy their explanation.

Believing she was the target of a cruel joke, she filed suit against the newspaper for printing the 1996 article. Use of the phrase, she claimed, branded her with "a criminal offense involving moral turpitude under the (state's) sodomy statute." Her attorney, Lisa Ciaffone, also argued that the crude phrase essentially called Yeagle "a brown-noser, an apple polisher and a kiss-ass who shamelessly curries favor for personal and professional gain." To make up for damages done to her professional reputation, Yeagle asked for at least \$850,000.

Justices didn't exactly buy Yeagle's story either. They decided the phrase could not be construed as factual information about her job, and therefore could not injure her professional reputation.

"In this case, 'Director of Butt

Licking' is no more than rhetorical hyperbole," Justice Elizabeth Lacy wrote for the courts majority. "It cannot reasonably be understood as stating an actual fact about Yeagle's job title or her conduct."

However, the two dissenting justices Cynthia Kinser and Lawrence Koontz Jr. wrote that the title had imputed to Yeagle "an unfitness to perform the duties of her job (and) a lack of integrity in the performance of such duties."

Despite that criticism, Creekmore said the incident is an unfortunate one that Yeagle "has to move on from and become a little more thick-skinned about."

Yeagle did not return phone calls Monday.

The newspaper's insurance covered most of its legal bills, but it did have to pay a \$5,000 deductible, Creekmore said.

Pill

continued from page 1

dermess, irregular bleeding, fluid retention or headaches. "After my treatment of the morning after pill, I experienced flu-like symptoms. I was very nauseated for three days and vomited twice. It wasn't too bad though, because when I think about possibly becoming pregnant, I know that this was much better for me than having an abortion," said one eighteen-year-old woman whose condom broke during sexual intercourse, which led her to use emergency contraception.

The morning after pill was approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in the United States in February 1997, making the pill a legal emergency medication that prevents a pregnancy after unprotected intercourse. The pills have been around for over 20 years, enduring tests for safety and effectiveness.

Studies have shown that, if the morning after pill fails and a woman becomes pregnant, the fetus will not be harmed.

The morning after pill is not to be confused with the abortifacient, RU-486 which was also recently approved by the FDA.

The American College of

Obstetricians and Gynecologists predicts that the Yuzpe method could prevent as many as 1.7 million pregnancies and 800,000 abortions a year. The morning after pill isn't 100 percent effective, but when used within 72 hours after sexual intercourse, it can prevent 75 percent of pregnancies that would have occurred without the oral contraception.

Truett stressed that this method of contraception should not be used as a sole form of birth control. "The pill was not intended to be used as a form of birth control method, but rather as a method for unexpected situations, such as a condom that has broken or sexual assault," said Amy Klem, Planned Parenthood's communications assistant.

The pill is affordable--\$40--and accessible at Planned Parenthood, which accepts private insurance, as well as Medicaid. For teens, the cost is \$20. All records are kept completely confidential.

For more information on emergency contraception call 1-888-NOT-2-LATE. For any other questions on types of contraception or Sexually Transmitted Diseases, contact Planned Parenthood's Information & Referral hotline at 1-312-427-2ASK.

Growth

continued from page 1

end programs now offered at Columbia.

According to Mike DeSalle, administrator of finance, for every one dollar the college spent, the college retained 2 to 4 cents on the dollar. This fundraising cycle permitted Columbia to build an endowment fund.

In other business, the admissions department was pleased to announce its success in assessing new and transfer students this year. The new "Freshman Assessment Survey," a program recently adopted by Columbia to assess each new student's needs academically and socially, is off to a very good start.

"There is definitely a change in altitude here at Columbia," said Kelly who represented Caroline Latta, academic dean. "We either sink or swim here. It's because of assessments such as this one we are

able to get to know students and address their problems on a one to one basis."

Jean Lee, dean of students, said she has a greater concern with the student dropout. "There should be more attention given to implore and assess the student, to build them up psychologically in order to retain them through graduation."

Lee Gurstein and the student affairs administration have other plans for the coming years. They guaranteed that every new student has at least one faculty member to help integrate them in their educational goals. They also plan to establish academically related activities within the school. When challenged on the fact of unnecessary expenses due to the open admissions policy Columbia continues to uphold, Duff responded, "it is imperative for the faculty and administration to remain committed to this policy."

In 1979 Columbia was housed in the 600 South Michigan Building. Today there are 13 different buildings

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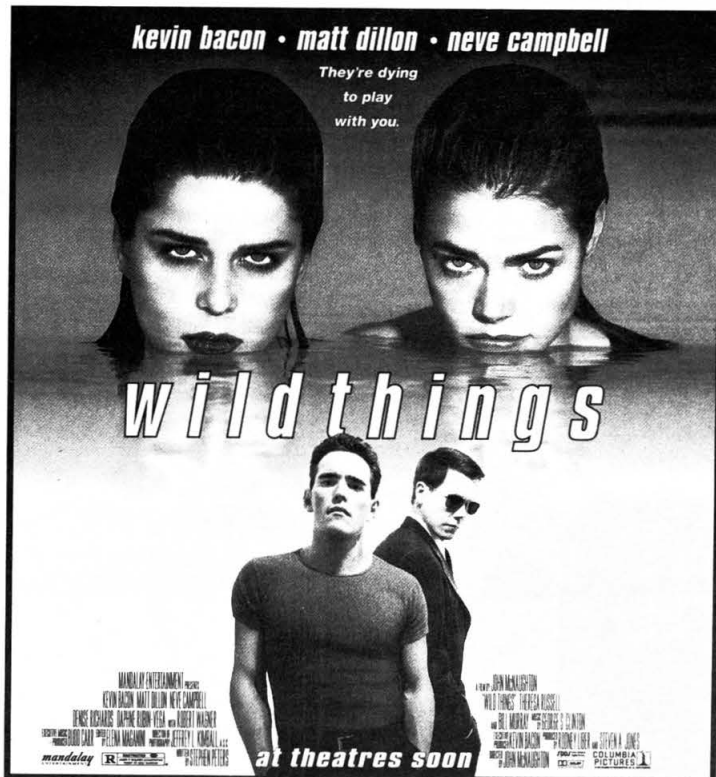
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Columbia College Chicago Latinos in the Arts Celebration March 2 - April 27, 1998



Latino in the Arts Exhibit:
"Latino Serigraphs"
March 2-19, Hokin Annex

Opening Reception:
Wednesday, March 4, 1998
Performance by: Latin Jazztet
Hokin Gallery, 623 S. Wabash
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Mini Film Festival Series
Friday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.
"Nueva Yol"

Saturday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.
"Chicanos"

Friday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.
"La Leyenda de Tanguito 1993
Argentina"

Saturday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.
"Mi Puerto Rico"

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Films will be shown at the
Columbia College Residence Center
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Latino Students Spring Reception
Tuesday, March 10, 1998
Hokin Annex, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Meet and socialize with other Latino
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Music provided by Columbia College
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David Hernandez Street Sounds
And Eduardo Arocho
Wednesday, March 11,
11:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Hokin Gallery
623 S. Wabash

Classical Guitar Recital
Monday, March 23, 1998
11:45 a.m.

Performance by: Norman Ruiz
Commemorating the 50th
anniversary of Mexican composer
Manuel Ponce's death.
Hokin Gallery
623 S. Wabash

Student Discussion:
Neighborhood Gentrification
Thursday, March 26, 1998. 11:00
a.m.

Speakers:
Carlos Flores & Joy Aruguete
Faculty Lounge, 11th floor
624 S. Michigan

Latin American Music Festival
from Spanish Rock to Salsa
Thursday, April 16
& Friday, April 17
5:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash

Latino Writer's Workshop Series
Thursday, April 23, 1998
11:30 a.m.
Faculty Lounge, 11th floor
624 S. Michigan

14th Chicago Latino Film Festival
Presents: Women in Film:
Perspectives Symposium
Monday, April 27, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Ferguson Theater,
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Robert Stevenson

It is time to enforce the law at the dorms

Well, if you read *The Chronicle* last week you saw the story on Columbia students finally being allowed into the dorms. They had been living in the Essex Inn a few blocks south of here on Michigan Avenue. One of the students complained of all the pot and cigarette smoke on the floor the school had arranged for several students to live on.

Another issue that has been brewing over in 731 Plymouth Court is drugs.

Obviously no college is free of drugs, it has been part of most campuses since the 60s. I bet they have been more prevalent at Columbia since we are a liberal student population. But nowadays, no one should have to put up with being around them. Be it in front of the Wabash Building or where you live. Because, after all, the wacky tabacky is NOT LEGAL. Plus it really does mess you up, seriously.

Recently the Columbia College Residence Center's "Community Newsletter" published a reminder of the Center's drug policy.

"The use, production, manufacture, sale, distribution and/or possession of illegal drugs or controlled substances (including marijuana) violates federal, state, and city law and will result in disciplinary action—up to and including eviction from the Residence Center and suspension from the College."

According to the reminder, the first time offender will be punished with a \$50 fine and/or community service and/or mandatory counseling. This can be dependant on the severity of the "situation."

The severe penalty is being kicked out of the school and dorms. Anyone who is in the room at the time of a drug bust will be banned for 48 hours and can be banned permanently if the situation warrants.

I think that most students who are in violation of this policy think it is a joke! Why would students need to be "reminded." The school should just do unannounced searches occasionally to make sure the rules are being followed. I remember the police visiting my high school a few times a year with police dogs to sniff out illegal going ons. It did deter a lot of students from bringing substances into the school.

Now you are probably thinking that it is a violation of civil rights. I would disagree, if public high schools can look through lockers, a private institution should be able to make sure the living areas of a college are drug free. A drug free environment has to be much more productive to academic pursuits.

Another thought is that this is college and people in college experiment with stuff...but, again, it is illegal.

Just about everyone I talk to who lives in the dorms says there is a problem there with drugs. So why has the school not been enforcing their drug policy?

If the school took a hard stance against drugs, it could help alleviate the over crowding problem the dorms has. Simply kick out the students who are breaking the law. It is called zero tolerance.

Once the offender is kicked out, students will not have to be sent to a hotel. They can have the addicts room.

From what I understand there is enough violators to make a lot of free space available to student who want to live there.

Unfortunately the school probably cannot take such a hard stance against illegal drugs, just things like pesky part-time faculty unions.

It is a problem that no one seems to talk about in open. Students know what is going on, but the Administration seems to turn it's back on the whole thing.

So what do you think about this? Should the school crack down on illegal substances being brought into and/or used in the dorms?

Look below for all the easy ways to send your thoughts on this to *The Chronicle*. Hope to hear from a lot of you!

Editorials are the opinions of the Chronicle's editorial board. Columns are the opinions of the authors. Views expressed in the opinion pages aren't necessarily the opinions of The Chronicle, Columbia's journalism department or Columbia College.

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Wednesday is the deadline for submissions. Please include full name, year and major. Letters can be faxed to 312/427-3920, e-mailed to chron96@interaccess.com, mailed to 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60605 or posted on the Chronicle's interactive forum at

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Editorial

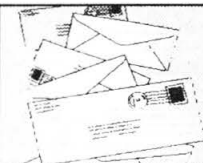
Student apathy toward Columbia reform is reprehensible

As reported by Tracey E. Thames on the front page of this issue of *The Chronicle*, student turnout for a college wide Town Hall meeting was abysmal.

This is something that students need to heed: if you are not part of the solution, you are only part of the problem. By sitting on your hands and only complaining to others, who cannot do anything about your complaints, gets nothing accomplished.

Only those who speak up get heard when things need to be changed. With Columbia facing re-accreditation, this is the optimal time to stand up and be heard! The school has had more open hearings this year than in the past three years combined.

Students should be ashamed about their low involvement in the process to correct the issues and problems students face here.



Letters to the Editor

Infrastructure should be priority at Columbia Where is tuition being spent?

Why would they increase the tuition if part-time faculty, which represent most of our teaching staff, demand more money?

This year alone, full-time students pay at least \$4,200, plus class fees. If you've ever wandered among the many Columbia buildings, one might wonder where that money goes anyway?

If it's not to the faculty, it most definitely isn't to building maintenance. Most floors have cracked and crumbling walls streaked with scuff marks and stains, paint jobs are years past due, chairs are falling apart and the shelves of most of the film editing rooms are coming off the walls.

Columbia has their accreditation coming up shortly, and there is much work to be done to the buildings to assure that they get it. Then they can worry about staff issues.

Tim Kelly
via online forum

Chronicle staff missed a few days in Biology

I do hope the point of the article entitled "Y chromosomes and sports do mix" was to sing the praises of male athletes, or that the title was witty satire by the author, for if it wasn't I fear that this school needs to review its science program. I have one thing to point out....MEN have Y chromosomes, women have two X chromosomes, therefore to entitle an article Y chromosomes and sports do mix is stating a fact.

Everyone knows that male athletes rake in the big bucks...women on the other hand, well let's just say that their salaries have been lagging behind. Now do not misunderstand me, I am not commenting about whether I think women should be in sports, for I think they should. I think they should have equality right across the board. I am merely pointing out that the science editing of this publication is lacking. Thank you.

David Voderberg
via online forum

With all this complaining and questioning the schools policy on the rationing of what funds go where, what will be repaired next, what departments need funding, etc, it seems to me that maybe others outside the Columbia Administrative staff might have some insight into the solution.

Is there a way to get a hold of a list of the money allocation here at Columbia, i.e., a detailed breakdown of how much money Columbia has available and just where the hell it all goes. Does anyone know if a document such as this exists? Or, who we can request it from? And who (with some authority) can we discuss this with?

Michael Kammes
via online forum

Death row inmate seeks penpals, or just pals

I'm writing in hope that you might help me in seeking correspondence through your school newspaper or newsletter.

I'm a 22-year-old white male inmate currently on death row in Arizona. I'm in a lockdown unit so I have plenty of time to correspond through mail. Most of my correspondence comes from my attorney's and they don't always write about good things.

I have very little family that corresponds with me and new correspondence would really be a blessing. It's been very lonely and cruel in here.

Trying to find new correspondence with someone is truly hard because I'm on death row and because of my age. If anyone would like to write to me or ask about death row please do so, all correspondence is welcome. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Laird
ADC#107029
Arizona State Prison
P.O. Box 3400
Florence, AZ 85232



THE MAKIN' TEA REPORT

WITH SAM WALTERS

(Sam Walters is on sabbatical this semester, but will continue writing sporadically for The Chronicle because he's got so much clout)

One totally butt evening:

Six straight hours of TV. Ugh. 11:30, angry frustration erupts in action! I'll go to White Castle! Ugh.

It's dangerous—not to mention foolish—to go skipping about my neighborhood after dark; an ugly Red Riding Hood on a quest for a sack of rancid beef. Sometimes it's hard to hear one another over the chattering gunfire. My life for a bag of sliders. Mm...sliders, zipping down my throat and rocketing out my rear. Cheez dripping lard frize, diffusing palpably into my arteries, bringing the whole rasping works to a final shuddering halt. Sounds delectable. Idiot.

It's Chicago so there's a hurricane going on outside. I put on my holey jacket and old watch cap. The cap's so greasy it's water repellent. Probably flammable too. Hope I don't get struck by lightning. Probably will.

I step out the building and start running. A high speed wind whips violently around me-lucky, since it's the only thing deflecting the muggers' bullets. I'm a duck at a car-

nival shoot, a big stupid looking duck, sprinting for all he's worth, silhouetted against a background of intermittent lightning. Through the streaking rain, I spot White Castle glowing in the distance. Blessed, awful White Castle. I fixate on the "Open 24 hrs." sign, done, literally, in stained glass as a border around one of the windows. White Castle, a comforting sanctuary for those poor, beggarly souls, lame with alcohol or stupefied with dope. And those are just my friends.

I start singing the White Castle theme song in my head: "Oh don't make me eat at White Castle, it's too hard on my poor ass'le"(not endorsed the White Castle corp.) Then I'm there, finally, pulling open the front door, pulling with both hands, pulling...futilely, since it's locked. Oh goddamn it...wait! There's people inside. I go around back and get in the drive-thru line. There's a couple of cars ahead of me and a guy in a Chevy Nova pulls in behind. He's staring at me like I forgot my car. It's hard to feel like a bigger schmuck than some slob in a rusted out Chevy Nova. But **standing** in the drive-in line, in the middle of a freaking typhoon will do it. The car at the head of the line moves off, and I shuffle forward a few feet. The fifth crack head in as many minutes approaches me.

"Hey my friend, can you spare a nickel?"

"No man, I really can't, but I'll buy you something to eat if you want."

"I don't want nothin' to eat, I want some crack!"

"They don't sell crack here."

"Yes they do!"

"Oh...well, I'm still not going to buy you any."

Now it's my turn to order. I approach the drive-thru window.

"Hi, I'd like four sliders, a large cheez frie, a—"

"Sir, are you in a car?"

"What?"

"Are you in a car sir?"

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Yes, it's an invisible car, I'm Wonder Woman. "No, I'm not driving tonight, the weather's too nice."

"I'm sorry sir, I can't serve you unless you're in a car."

"Excuse me, are you insane?"

"I'm sorry sir, that's how they're doing it now."

"No, that's how **you're** doing **me** now."

"I'm sorry sir."

"Lookit, you've a sign round front that says open twenty four hours."

"I know sir."

"It's stained glass!"

"I know sir, that's how come we can't take it out."

"Oh I'll take it out for you!"

I've seen my own death. It will come at just such a moment as this. Someone will say something, I'll see something, that just does **not make any sense**, and I'll have a stroke trying to figure it out. My eyes will cross, steam will come out of my ears and I'll start doing back flips. Then my head will explode. I tell you, I cannot handle weirdness. My grip on sanity is very tenuous. Wildly improbable instances of complete nonsense hurtle me screaming into the abyss. It's like God is stepping out from behind his curtain, blatantly screwing around with our reality. Just messing with us, y' know? It's all an illusion! It's all an illlulluusion!!! Oo Oo! Oo Oo! Oo Oo! Jerk.

Later that night, I have to break the Ricobenes guy out of my "elevator" with a crowbar. I'm going to bed. Maybe I'll die in my sleep.

Editors note: Sam has problems. 'Nuff said.

The truth on what goes on behind bathroom stall doors

By Georgiana Cohen

Daily Free Press, Boston University

An interesting phenomenon rarely given serious and detailed scrutiny is that of "the group." People like them. Families, classes, gangs, clubs, cliques, athletes, witch's covens—groups are numerous and varied.

As a college student, I see people in dire distress over one dilemma pertaining to groups almost every day: The immortal question of "Who should I go to breakfast/lunch/dinner with today?" For some unknown reason, people need other people, and preferably more than one other person, to eat with them.

There are several reasons for this. The first and foremost is insecurity. Far too many people fall prey to the notion that if they go to dinner alone, others will think they are a loser. My message to people who subscribe to this notion: Get over it, and get over yourself. Everyone else is too busy trying to identify the dining hall food to pay any attention to you.

Besides, if you're hungry, eat. I've seen starving people refuse to go down to dinner unless someone is with them. They usually eat rice cakes for dinner instead. That's not just insecurity. That's malnutrition and the height of stupidity.

Then there are those inevitable group-trips—also known as "piss parties" and "united urination"—to the bathroom. For as long as anyone can remember, women have gone to the bathroom in gaggles, while men have flown solo.

Why? Well, I shall seek to answer this question once and for all.

Bathrooms are a female's center of the universe. They are hubs of gossip. Several women crowded in front of a mirror exchange an extraordinary amount of information. The Pentagon has recently replaced its top-secret conference rooms with women's restrooms to create a more stimulating environment for strategic planning.

Women's bathrooms are also little-known centers of scientific advancement. Calculators and chalkboards are attached to stall doors, which allows a woman to powder her nose and solve a chemical equation in one trip. The secret to genetic cloning was not discovered by Scottish scientist Ian Wilmut in a laboratory; instead, it was uncovered by Doris McGee in a gas station restroom in Billings, Mont., with the help of her sister, Harriet.

Women's bathrooms have another hidden feature: the enlarged stall for the handicapped. During peak hours, it becomes a site of great revelry. The toilet bowl is transformed into a punch bowl, the handrails are converted to lounge seating, toilet paper turns into streamers, and the sticky tile surface becomes a hot dance floor.

That, my friends, is why women take so long in the bathroom.

Meanwhile, unaccompanied men simply slip, drip and zip in the restroom next door, and wonder where that great music floating through the walls is coming from.



The Pentagon has recently replaced its top-secret conference rooms with women's restrooms to create a more stimulating environment for strategic planning.

A LITTLE Something To Get Off My Chest...

By Sue Markert

Orange Source, Syracuse University

"Hey, you shouldn't have to wait for beer," the blond guy said to my chest.

He grabbed my empty cup, and passed it over dozens of people to the keg. In a moment, I had my beer, and I walked away, self-consciously rearranging the four pairs of socks stuffed in my bra.

I don't consider myself small by any means; I was pleased to read in a Glamour poll last year that most women want to be my size, 34C. But hey, it was a Halloween party that provided the perfect opportunity to, um, accentuate my features.

Besides, my cheerleader costume absolutely screamed for a bloated chest and big hair. So I grabbed a couple of pairs of shoulder pads, an oversized bra and eight socks, and I set to work.

I intended for my breasts to be so big they would obviously be a part of my costume, like a head wound or an extra arm. Not a chance. Most of the women I met immediately knew they were falsies, but many men had no clue. You'd think my bumping into walls with my chest would have been a good indicator that I usually carried significantly less baggage—but many guys still didn't get it.

Aside from my new spatial boundaries, I realized big-breasted women get a lot more attention. A lot. Maybe this was just because I was attuned to it, but I noticed I got a lot more suitors than on a typical

night of partying. I would walk down the stairs, down the hall, in a crowd, and men would call to me or stop me. One guy pulled me aside and asked me to sign his mask.

This suited me just fine. I figured the more attention, the better.

But having these big breasts took work, mind you. I had to sneak into the bathroom twice to rearrange, prompting those outside to wonder aloud, "What the hell is she doing in there?" I also noticed that for optimum bustiness, I had to constantly keep my shoulders back and stomach sucked in. Try it sometime.

To make matters worse, when people—male and female—found out about my socks, a couple felt the need to grab me repeatedly.

Still worse was that my friend kept telling people, "You know, those aren't Sue's real breasts. She has four pairs of socks in there!" When she said that, some men, er, boys drifted away and lost interest. One even groped me, then left.

It made me wonder about why I was getting all this attention. What about my cute looks, my sparkling personality? Was my attractiveness confined to a sock drawer?

I got a phone number that night. I didn't tell him about my experiment and hoped the rest of me had made a good enough impression. I feared my socks had written a check my real breasts would bounce.

"You know, those aren't Sue's real breasts. She has four pairs of socks in there!"

E-mail us and tell us what you think of Columbia.

chron96@interaccess.com

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Team sports and worthy causes draw the most attention Monday and Tuesday. Everyone's in the mood to fight for what they believe is right. Even normally stoic people will have a tendency to complain on Wednesday and Thursday. That's because they'll be more sensitive. There's a surge of energy on Friday through Sunday, when the Sun and Moon are both in Aries. This New Moon signals victory over personal fears. Many people will be bounding right past their normal inhibitions, so watch out. Sunday will calm down as the Moon transits Taurus. It's the perfect day to rest from the weeks excitement. The biggest battles then will be over who gets to control the remote.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Teamwork is required to answer the questions on Monday and Tuesday. The challenge you face is intellectual, not physical, and part of the lesson is learning how to work together. Travel ends in confusion on Wednesday, so it might be better to stay home. Your expedition will go much better if you start it on Thursday instead. Your power increases on Friday to the point of becoming awesome. You'll break new speed records over the weekend, but take care. You're on a roaring natural high. No other stimulants allowed.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Heed the words of caution you hear on Monday and Tuesday. Your instructor knows what she's talking about. Your friends bring you luck on Wednesday, and abundance on Thursday. The pressure increases on Friday until it's almost unbearable. You're forced to do something you've been resisting for ages over the weekend. It'll be wonderful to have it done.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). A scholar from far away provides inspiration on Monday. You'll wonder about the answer then, but on Tuesday you'll be sure. A confrontation on Wednesday leads to a fabulous career opportunity on Thursday. Listen for an opening. Your friends insist on your participation Friday. Iles and every topic under the Sun before the weekend is over.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). There are ways to get the money you need, but paperwork is required. Pick up the forms on Monday, and get them back by Tuesday. A health problem Wednesday night can be solved quickly. Learn how by Thursday morning from a natural healer, and you'll never worry about this again. An awesome opportunity presents itself on Friday. There is a test, and it is a tough one. Be quick, but stay calm. And it wouldn't hurt to say your prayers. That'll give you the extra boost you need to succeed. Relax in the arms of friends on Sunday.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't get into a debate with an intellectual type on Monday or Tuesday. Just do what you're told. The other person is right. You're very lucky with money on Wednesday and Thursday. It might be kind of embarrassing, but if you ask for what you want, you'll probably get it. Start your weekend excursion as soon as possible on Friday. You'll go farther and faster than ever before on Saturday. By Sunday you'll have achieved the glory and recognition you so richly deserve.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The latest technology is required to finish the task on Monday and Tuesday. Be patient and let a woman teach you. Your partner brings you luck on Wednesday, and incredible bounty on Thursday. Follow the coaching to maximize your talents. You're pushed beyond your old limits on Friday and Saturday. You'll emerge as the person you always wanted to be but hardly recognize, if you stick with the program. Sunday is your day of rest.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll fall hard for an intellectual on Monday. Make a major commitment on Tuesday, and your life will never be the

same. It'll be better. Listen carefully on Wednesday, so you get the assignment right. Once you do that, it'll be easy to dig for the facts on Thursday. Hitch your wagon to a star on Friday. Allow yourself to be told and pushed into a new level of enlightenment. The new Moenue on Sunday.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you can stay home Monday and Tuesday, you'll get more work done from there. It'll be harder on Friday, though. An argument with your true love about money disrupts your train of thought. It'll be resolved by Thursday. Turn in your homework by Friday morning so you can get out to play with friends. A group effort does very well over the weekend, due to your inspiration.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your ability to assimilate information is awesome on Monday and Tuesday. You're laying the foundation for future success, so take your time and do it right. A new idea seems to fail on Wednesday, but actually leads to something better by Thursday. Heed advice you get from a loved one or a child on Friday. You're being pushed to try something you find intimidating. It's a struggle and a lot of work, but worth the effort. You'll be so proud of yourself by Sunday.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take money you acquire on Monday to reserve a space on your dream ship by Tuesday. You may not know how you're going to do it yet, but anything is possible. Your studies initially take off in the wrong direction on Wednesday, but by Thursday, you know even more than you dreamed possible. You not only know the right way, you know why not to do it the wrong way. This weekend will be great for doing renovations around your house. Knock down a wall or put up a new room with the help of all your friends over the weekend. By Sunday you'll have not only a new living environment, but also a deeper love for a very special person.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Your strength and intelligence are awesome on Monday and Tuesday. Whatever you don't know, you can figure out. Use it to find finding for a group activity on Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday is confusing, but by Thursday you should have a solid plan. On Friday, you're bound to win an intellectual competition. You're smarter, faster, and more decisive than anybody else, that's all. Stude a difficult exam on Sunday.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Get all your facts together on Monday and Tuesday, so you're ready to make your presentation on Wednesday. A confrontation with an older person that day makes you nervous, but don't worry. Everything works out fine by Thursday. Reward yourself by buying something you've always wanted on Friday. Keep shopping late into the night, and an older person will make you an awesome deal. Sell what you don't need on Saturday, and give the money to your partner. Your insight helps a friend decide on Sunday.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Your friends will teach you what you need to know, if you'll let them. 3/9: It all comes together, with the help of a savvy group. 3/10: Listen to excellent coaching the first part of this year, so you can apply the lesson later. 3/11: Check old issues off your lists. Get the private closets cleaned out. 3/12: The more you finish, the more powerful you'll become. 3/12: Set goals that require discipline to achieve, and you'll fly with the eagles. 3/13: You're strong, dynamic and good looking. Add self-discipline, and become fabulously wealthy. 3/14: You've got what it takes. Start by making more money, and never worry about it again. 3/15: Let the right people know what you want, and what you mean to accomplish.

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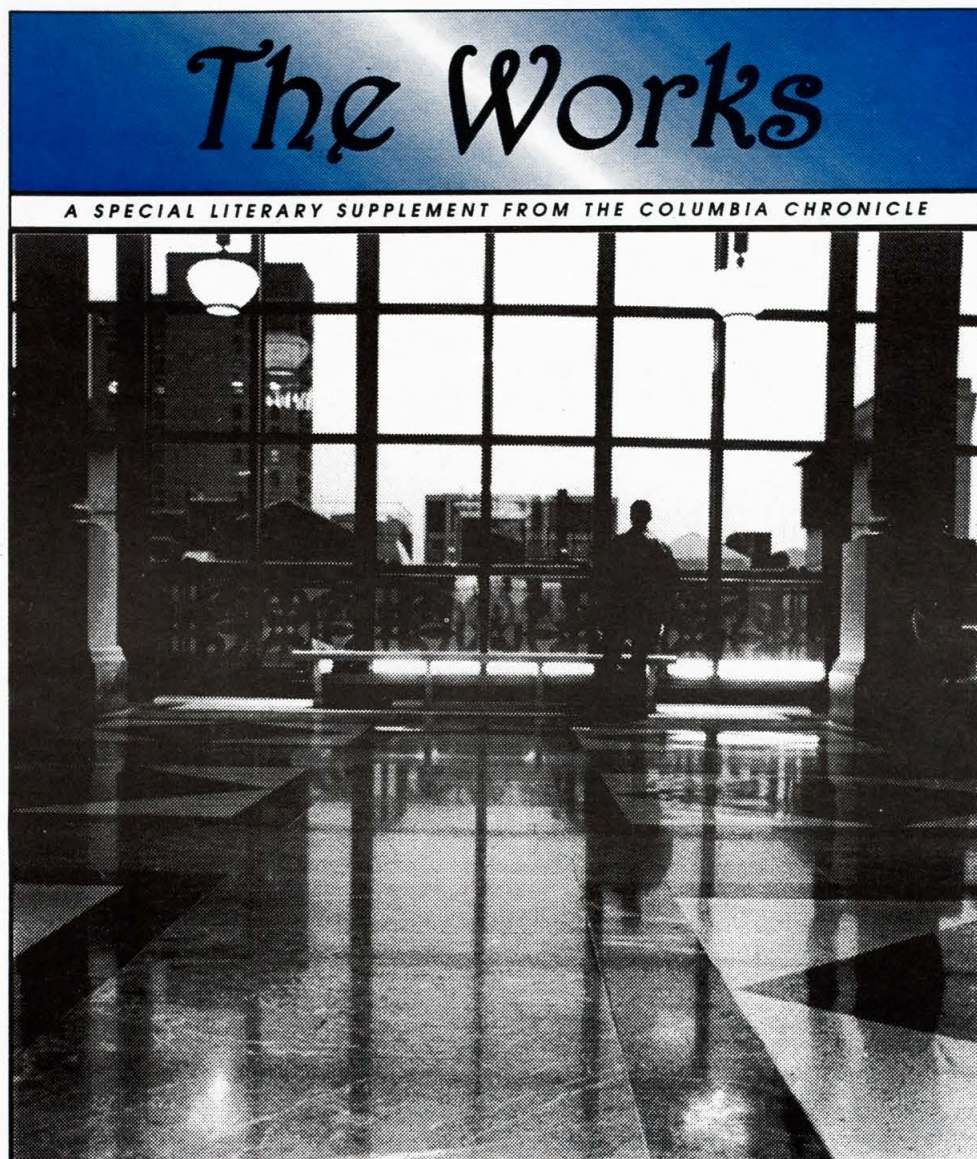
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Coming next week.....



We are currently looking for works of fiction, poetry, personal essays, original photography and artwork to include in this special supplement.

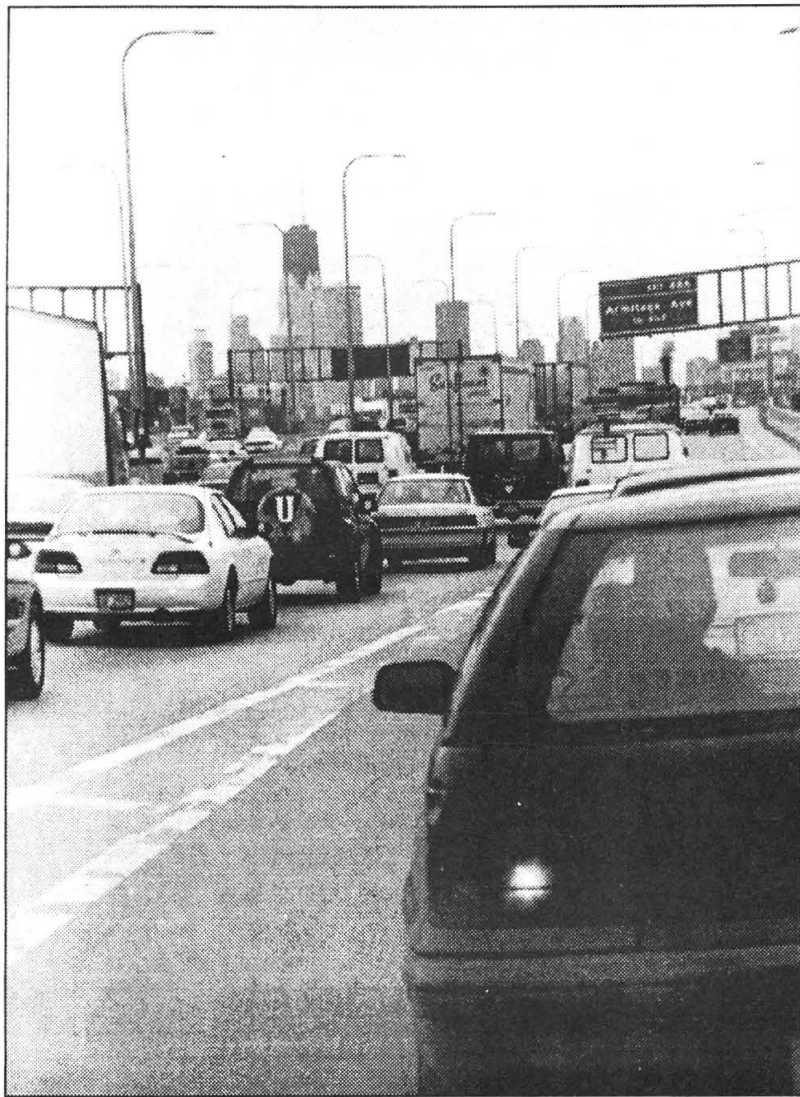
Interested students or Columbia staff members can send their submissions to

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Special Sections Editor
The Columbia Chronicle
Suite 205-Wabash Bldg.*

E-mail: Chron96@interaccess.com

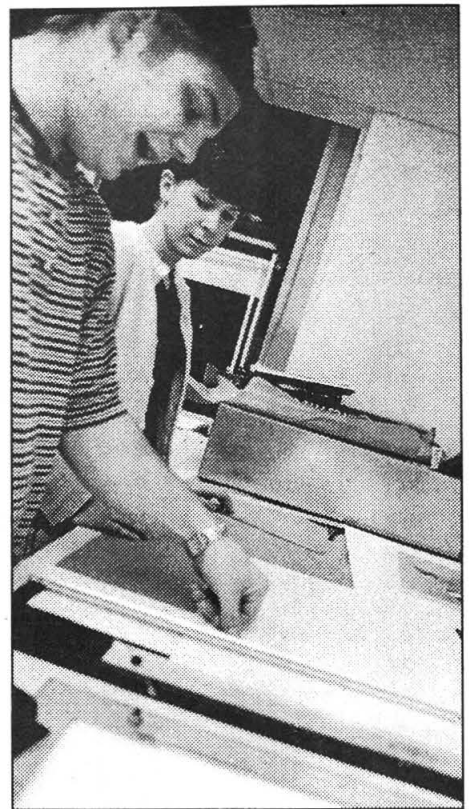
Please include a short bio and phone number

All submissions, other than photographs and artwork, must be submitted on a disk (no Macintosh disk please) or sent via e-mail by 12:00 on Wednesday, March 10, 1998.



Marc Tobin/Chronicle

Starting off the day in traffic on the highway, inching your way to the first class that day.



John Hanson, a T.A. in the photo lab on the 10th floor of the 600 S. Michigan Building, gets help mounting his wild life images from a friend.

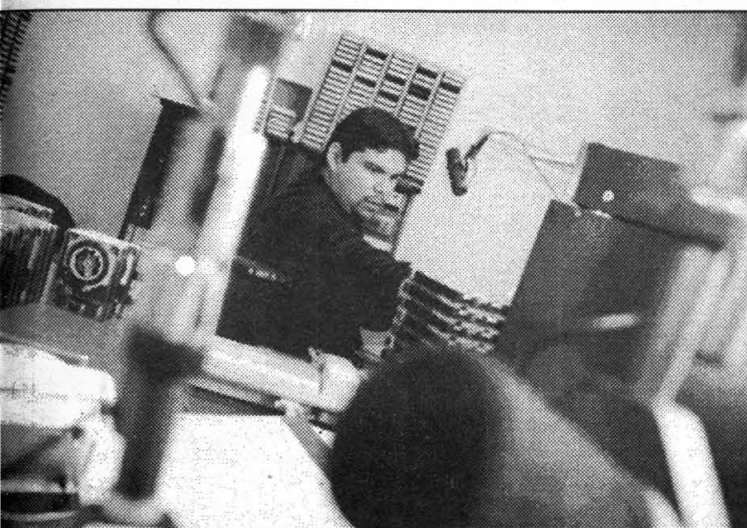
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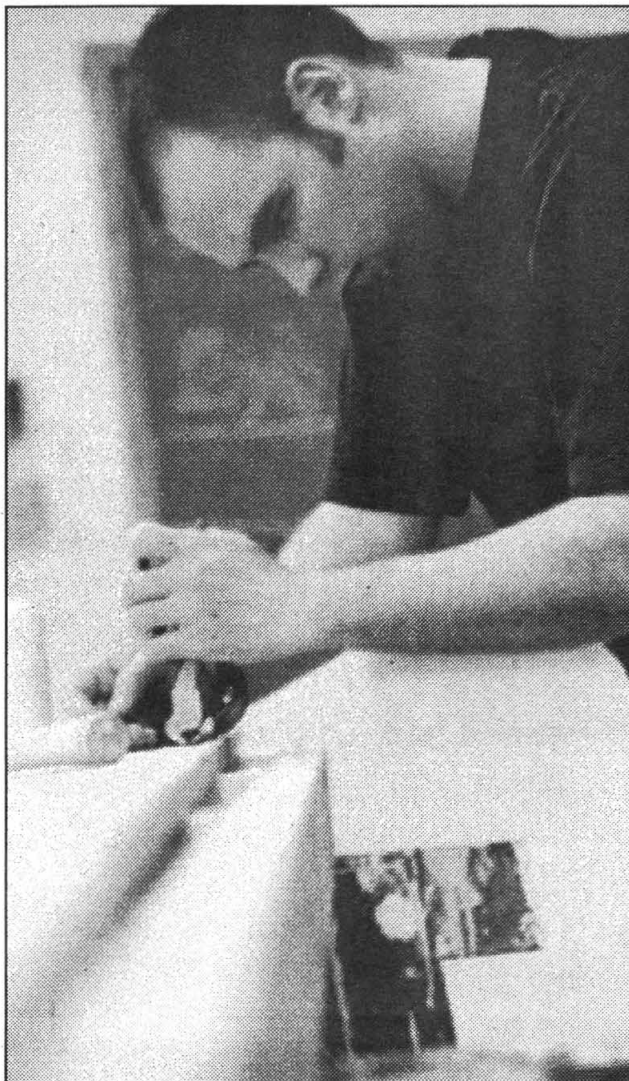
Erin Robbins, a freshman photo student, is a work-aide in the costume shop in the new 1415 S. Wabash building.



Dance students move to the beat of a different drum in this African Dance class on the second floor of the Wabash Building.



RX mid-day DJ, Luis "Taco" Segura, ques up the next song before taking a call. Segura, also the assistant music director at the station, which is located on the first floor of the E. Congress Building. He's looking forward to the day everything is moved out of the studio he calls "the dungeon" and into the bigger one down the hall.



Senior and Tech Theater major Don Miller, works on the stage he designed for the Columbia play "Company". He's doing the stage as an independent study class. The play stats March 16th in the basement theater of the 11th street building



Students working in the woodshop during the middle of the day.



Art and students can both chill out in the Hokin Gallery in the 623 S. Wabash Building.

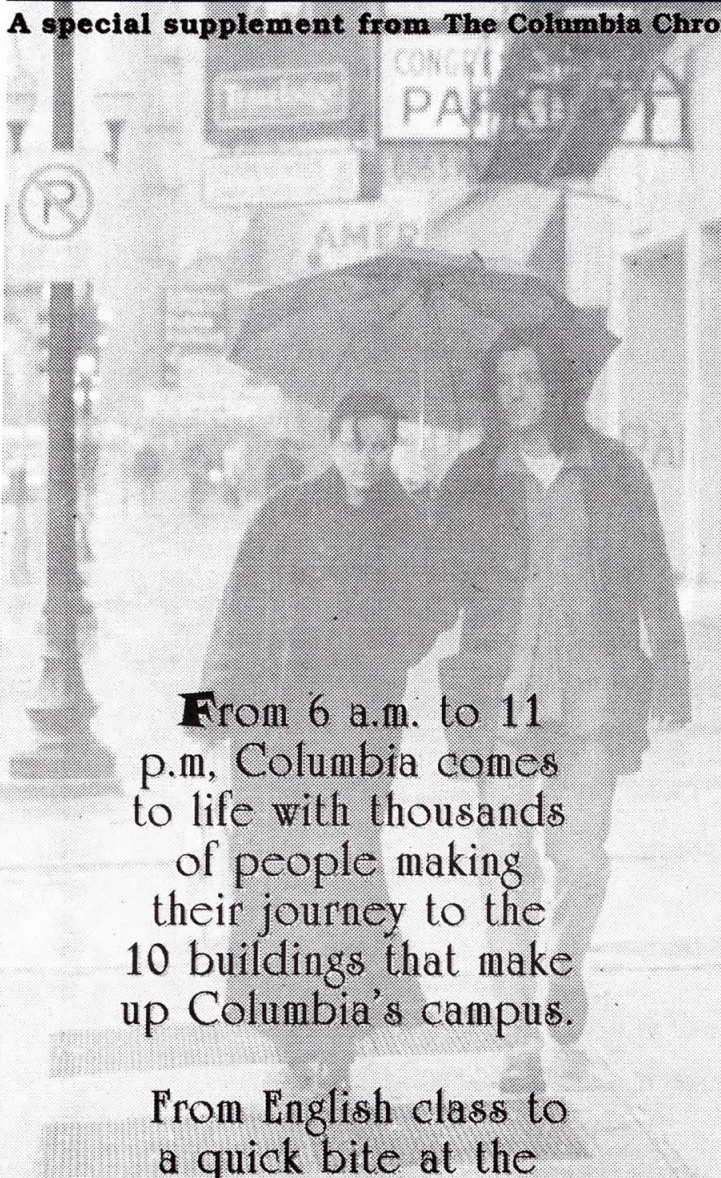
Blair Fredrick/Chronicle

Stacy Morgan/Chronicle


Columbia: From dawn to dusk

A special supplement from The Columbia Chronicle

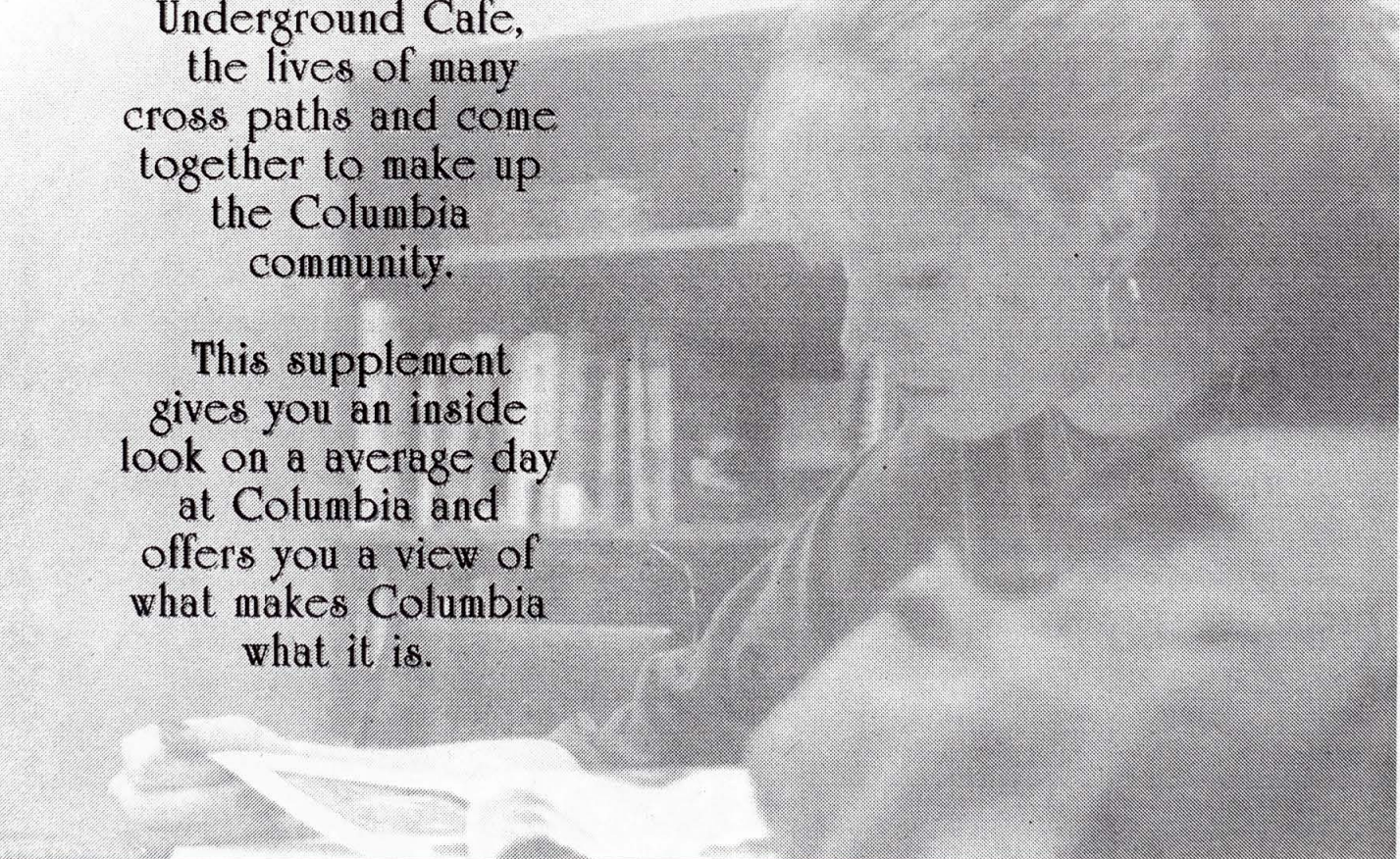
March 9, 1998



From 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., Columbia comes to life with thousands of people making their journey to the 10 buildings that make up Columbia's campus.



From English class to a quick bite at the Underground Cafe, the lives of many cross paths and come together to make up the Columbia community.



This supplement gives you an inside look on a average day at Columbia and offers you a view of what makes Columbia what it is.

The life and times of the people of Columbia College

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Students!

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD!

Every ten years all accredited colleges must renew their accreditation with one of the regional accrediting associations recognized by the United States Department of Education. As you may have heard, Columbia College Chicago is now working on a comprehensive self-evaluation as part of the process for renewing its own accreditation with the North Central Association. We need your point of view to make our evaluation complete!

This is a great chance for you, as students, to voice your opinion on the education that you are receiving here at Columbia *and* to help your College community identify both strengths and areas of concern. The Self-Study Steering Committee welcomes your thoughts, as well as your responses to any of the following questions:

1. Why did you choose Columbia?
2. Is your experience at Columbia living up to your expectations?
3. Are you familiar with the College mission statement, and, if so, what does it mean to you?
4. Do the services available to students at Columbia give everyone who enrolls a reasonable chance to succeed in their classes and complete their college education?
5. Is Columbia preparing you for the career that you plan to pursue, as well as for life in general?
6. If you could change one thing about Columbia to improve the education that you are receiving, what would it be and why?

You can send your responses to us via e-mail at selfstudy@popmail.colum.edu or through campus mail by addressing your response to Jill Summers, Wabash Room 222 and dropping it off at any department, asking them to place it in their outbox.

Thanks for your help!

The Self-Study Steering Committee



'Wedding Singer' hits plenty of high notes, though a little off key

By Wilfred Brandt
Staff Writer

Adam Sandler. As with many other "Saturday Night Live" alumni, he left the program to pursue a career in the film industry. But, unlike many other graduates of the famed variety show, Sandler has actually found success in the film industry, with movies like "Billy Madison" and "Happy Gilmore" under his belt. This time around, he's



be leaves him stranded at the altar. Trying to help him out of his subsequent depression, Julie enlists Robbie to help her plan her wedding, since her sleazy fiancé wants nothing to do with it. Working together for weeks on end, the two end up (you guessed it) falling in love.

Set in 1985, much of the film's humor focuses on the horrors of the past decade. Breakdancing, feathered hair, the Rubik's Cube and parachute pants all get their fair share of abuse, set to a literally non-stop barrage of hit

tunes like "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?" "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" and "Every Little Thing She Does is Magic." Though somewhat blunt and unnecessary in spots, most of these jokes actually work.

I'm wary of the eighties revival that I smell a' brewing, with films like "Gross Pointe Blank" and "Boogie Nights" poking fun at bits of the decade. But Sandler does a good job of using the material, though in all honesty, there's no reason for the film to be set in the 80s.

The remainder of the film's jokes stem from Sandler's unique brand of juvenile humor and his famous tongue-in-cheek songwriting. Off the wall, cartoonish sequences with toddlers calling women

bitches and old grannies talking vividly about losing their virginity are par for the course. The gags are hilarious, but they don't seem to fit the overall tone of the film. Bizarre

sketch comedy that would have been right at home in "Billy Madison" seems awkward and out of place when set alongside more heartfelt dramatic scenes.

Unfortunately, by creating a successful romantic storyline, Sandler seems to have shot himself in the foot as far as some of the gags are concerned.

Still, the film does work. Adam Sandler turns in a great performance as the title character, charismatic and gen-

uine. Other fine performances are turned in by Allen Covert and Steve Buscemi, with a terrific cameo by a grizzled Billy Idol.

Drew Barrymore and Sandler have a really nice chemistry, which, in the end, is what pulls the film through, as the characters are ensnared by some rather convoluted plot twists. The narrative is fun and silly, with just enough information to keep an audience going.

A sweet story, directed with believability and energy, and written with a good dose of nostalgia for those of us who grew up in the eighties.

Those of you wary of Adam Sandler may find this new toned down release less brazen and more palatable. And Sandler fans will find this new one worth the price of admission.

At least the matinee.



Sandler and Barrymore recreate the '80s with memorable fashion, music and trends in their new movie, "The Wedding Singer."

trying his luck with aromatic comedy "The Wedding Singer."

Warm and entertaining, Sandler's latest release succeeds on the romance side of the equation, but in doing so sacrifices some of the big laughs found in his previous films.

Sandler plays Robbie Hart, an aspiring songwriter who makes ends meet working as a wedding singer. While performing at a ceremony, he befriends a new waitress named Julie (Drew Barrymore). They establish a friendship and discover that they have something in common; they're both getting married. However, Robbie's wedding turns into a disaster when his bride-to-

Set in 1985, much of the film's humor focuses on the horrors of the past decade.

'Warrior Queens' battle and conquer

By Kat Zeman
Staff Writer

The bloodhounds of Broadway are here at last. Seductive and violent, witty and powerful, these bloodthirsty female wielders of power are conquering all. Whoever said that war is a men thing has never seen this show. The ladies of Chicago's Premiere Women's Theatre are goddesses in rage, temptresses of conflict, and they're going to war. They are "Warrior Queens."

"Warrior Queens" is a five-woman ensemble, directed by Sandy Borglum, that ventures into the historic depths of female rulers who have led their countries into battle. The show opened March 1 and will run through April 19 at the Footsteps Theatre company, 5230 N. Clark, in celebration of their 10th Anniversary.

The ensemble is a mix of original writings that use a lot of poetry to tell different stories of powerful women in history. The women play different characters through the show and even take on the roles of Greek mythology goddesses. At one point the women join together and form the Hindu ten armed goddess Durga.

Some of the historic queens are from centuries ago while some are from the present. Margaret Thatcher and Geraldine Ferraro are among the many women portrayed in the production. Even though Ferraro never literally went to war she is considered a modern day equivalent of a warrior queen.

The tale is told from a woman's point of view while providing and opportunity for that view to grow and change. It's concentration lies in the exploration of different cultures in history and their warrior women.

"Most histories that we read are very patriarchal as well as very western and we don't pay a lot of attention to eastern and middle eastern cultures and obviously there's a wealth of them out there," said Karin McKie, Public Relations Representative and the actress who plays Queen Zenobia of Palmyria (modern day Iran/Iraq) in the show. "We did a lot



of historical research, so that there is a lot of history but then the pieces are very much contact improv."

The show is a highly physical production. It centers around heavy stage combat and violence with the use masks. Dawn "Sam" Alden, FTC Resident Fight Choreographer and "Babes with Blades" conceptrix, choreographed all stage combat and violence. The women are everything for each other. They are the stairs that they walk on, the furniture they sit on, and the pyramids they build. Weeks of physical training were needed to ensure that the actresses were able to perform such strenuous tasks. Rehearsals started as early as June of 1997.

"It's a lot of combat, movement and dance. We use human beings as everything, not just as actors but we also walk on each other, we're even furniture," said McKie "You don't need elaborate sets to do what we do and that's kind of the cool thing."

The actresses are all very talented and the fact that a lot of time and devotion was put into this production shows. It's real, informative and shows another side of history--a side that most history books ignore.

Do you have traumatizing questions about life, love and happiness? Let Michelle and Eileen sort out your dilemmas. Submit your questions to the Chronicle in the Wabash building, room 205. You can also fax your questions to (312)427-3920 or e-mail us at Chron96@interaccess.com.

Photo by Sue Ferrara

Run away as fast as you can from 'The Gingerbread Man'

By Sandy Campbell
Film Correspondent

If you are looking for a movie that is both confusing and poorly written, then "The Gingerbread Man" is the movie to see. Kenneth Branagh plays a lawyer who, by virtue of the film noir ploy of meeting the wrong person at the wrong time, picks up a woman (Embeth Daviditz of Schindler's List) whose father (Robert Duvall) has just stolen her car. He offers the woman, who is reluctant at first, a ride home. There is sexual electricity and they make love. He convinces her to bring a case against her father who leads a "group" of unkempt hillbillies, to stop his bullying behavior towards her, which has gone on for years; because of her ex-husband's reluctant testimony against the old geezer, her father is put away, but he escapes from a state mental hospital with the help of his hillbilly soldiers.

Soon there is a mysterious photographer capturing images of Branagh's kids (who are in the custody of their mother) and sending the resulting shots with the kids' faces charred out from a cigarette. Tom Berenger is also in this movie and plays a guy who—if I tell you, I would be giving you too much important info about the conclusion, so I not going to say anything more than he has an important role in this movie.

"The Gingerbread Man" seems to be two very different movies if looked at through two different sets of bi-focals: by watching the plot, or by watching the many symbols, visual images, and motifs in Robert Altman's work. This movie is confusing to watch, and its plot doesn't hold together. "The Gingerbread Man" is much more fun and satisfying if looked at the second way: by looking for the visual metaphors and motifs richly sprinkled throughout. For instance, the flick contains a lot of gingerbread-man imagery, such as gingerbread-man gingerbread molds hanging up on the walls of Embeth Daviditz' kitchen, and paper versions dangling from the hallway ceilings of Branagh's kids' school. Daviditz' house, kind of run-down for exotic Savannah, where the film is set, is gingerbread-cottage exotic and spooky inside.

Her father, it turns out, lives in a cabin on the edge of a (what else?) black walnut forest. And, from inside her cute/spooky little house, she tells a frightening version of the children's story of "The Gingerbread Man."

"You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!" This idea from the fairy tale is also explored by different plot points, namely, Robert Duvall AWOL's from the mental institution; Kenneth Branagh managing to run from one sexual conquest to another while keeping his balls in the air with wife, girlfriend, and mistress, and fleeing with his kids, who are in danger from assassination threats, to Grandma's country cottage; only to be caught up in kidnapping charges. The GB Man, for all his cockiness, gets eaten in the end-by-the fox.

While radios blare storm warnings about the arrival of Hurricane Geraldo encouraging people to stay home and off the streets during the hurricane, Branagh continues on his way. Gingerbread Men do not have enough sense not to trust foxes and not to come in out of the rain. The characters of "The Gingerbread Man" come in two types: gingerbread men, who cannot be caught until they trust a fox (type 2), which ends up deceiving them.

Often characters in this movie are both types. For example, the hillbillies are "foxes" because they lay a trap for Kenneth Branagh by leading him to a river, which he cannot cross, just like in the fairy tale. Even though the hillbillies' car gets stuck in the mud at that point, they flee in less than a nanosecond so there is no time for them to be arrested by the law. In the case of gingerbread man Kenneth Branagh, he "crumbles up" after falling into the river when the police show up and bring kidnapping charges against him for trying to save his children.

This change in fortune reminds us of the film's opening credits, where we saw Branagh crossing a river successfully by driving over a bridge. A lot of the characters seem to have foxy red-almost ginger-facial hair.

Robert Downey, Jr. plays Kenneth Branagh's undercover snoop. This makes him like a fox, but also like the gingerbread man in the children's story because he always wants to know what the cow, the rooster, and the old farm couple are doing, so to speak. He confronts Berenger on a boat down by the wharf, another body of water, only in this case the GB Man crumbles to his death. In fact, all through Downey's (intentional?) handgrip performance he looks like he is one cookie that is ready to fall out of the pan and onto the floor.

Branagh trusted Daviditz like the Gingerbread Man trusted the fox, and we all know our fables well enough to know that any foxes you trust are bound to deceive you.

The elements of fire and water can symbolize birth or death for the gingerbread man. Water is used to make dough, and fire is used

to bake the cookie. If a gingerbread man is placed in water he falls apart, and if he is left in the oven too long, he burns.

The film contains a lot of water imagery, beginning with a huge river found on the edge of downtown Savannah, with sand alongside it the color of Gingerbread. The way the shot is filmed makes the landscape look very Gingerbread-y. Water pours all around the film in the last quarter as the hurricane hits Savannah. And of course there is the aforementioned wharf and as well the river in which Branagh's car gets stuck.

But the gingerbread man can also die from being overcooked. Daviditz, the main fox, is associated with the color red: her car explodes and burns on her lawn, her father's house burns down, and she uses a flare-gun as a weapon.

A lot of the critics, including the local ones, have given the film mixed reviews. I haven't noticed a review in which the reviewer doesn't refer to Branagh's character as immoral just because he was angry and trying to save his children.

This strikes me as something like foxes trying to eat children. The four star reviews for the film seem

not to be given for the right reasons: the auteur-theory reason. This reasoning says that because Robert Altman is an "auteur,"

no matter what he directs, it is going to be wonderful, and besides, he got the cut he wanted.

My own opinion is more that Altman is too much of a tricky and deceiving fox. The jumpy plotting which he does in movies like "Nashville" doesn't really work because here we just need to be able to follow the story.

The Gingerbread Man #1 C+. The Gingerbread Man #2. A+.

'Krippendorf's Tribe' should stay lost

By Tiffany Golis
Staff Reporter

"Krippendorf's Tribe" is sometimes comical.

Richard Dreyfuss and "Dharma and Greg" star Jenna Elfman star in the film with an

the name of the tribe, he comes up with "Helmikedmu" which translates roughly to Krippendorf's children's names.

Shelly, his teenage daughter is going through a rebellious stage, but still acts as a mother figure to her two younger brothers.

Mickey, 12, admires and respects his father's work, as he would like to follow in his footsteps. The youngest, Edmund, is going through a phase of not talking to his father.

Sometimes the film is realistic as Krippendorf goes through his financial and emotional problems. The bank is trying to repossess his home and his children are not cooperating.

The focus of the movie is made on these daily trials of him being a single parent and trying to fulfill

both parental roles.

Although it tries hard "Krippendorf's Tribe" lacks the laugh-a-minute qualities the previews suggest.

It varies from comedy to family drama and never really satisfies either. The filmmakers should have delivered what was advertised.

In a confusing scene, Krippendorf's daughter calls a native tribe in New Guinea where the chief of the tribe answers on a cellular phone.

This contradicts an earlier scene when the tribe was seen as primitive and living in a rural area. By having the tribe aware of the latest technology, "Krippendorf's Tribe" doesn't match the way it has portrayed this fictitious tribe.

Overall, the film has not been a box office smash, but Dreyfuss and Elfman make a good comedic pair. Their chemistry on screen is hysterical.

"Krippendorf's Tribe" is a funny, wacky movie that leaves a smile on your face.

ensemble cast, including Tony award winner Lily Tomlin.

Dreyfuss portrays anthropologist James Krippendorf, a single dad having a tough time trying to raise three kids.

For the past two years he's been living off of grant study money that has been used to take care of his dysfunctional children and house that's in shambles.

One day Krippendorf's over zealous colleague, and self driven anthropologist "Vernoica Micelli" (Elfman) shows up on his doorstep to tell him she wants in on the "undiscovered" tribe in New Guinea that he has created and has been researching for the past two years. Micelli then reminds him about the presentation he will make about his profound discovery.

Tomlin plays Ruth Allen, the "queen" of the anthropology department who disregards Krippendorf's new find.

She knows that he is scamming the department and has a hunch that his tribe doesn't exist. As he attends the lecture, Krippendorf improvises his information from another trip he'd made to New Guinea.

When questioned about



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Columbia College Chicago

'Wag the Dog': Fact or Fiction?

NEW MOVIE HAS STRIKING SIMILARITIES TO REAL-LIFE CLINTON SCANDAL

By Diane Krueger
Staff Writer

Has fantasy become reality?

Some might say yes when comparing the current Clinton situation and the movie "Wag the Dog."

In the movie, which stars Dustin Hoffman and Robert DeNiro, a group of Washington spin doctors and Hollywood producers join forces to divert the nation's attention from a breaking story about a sex scandal involving the president and a young girl days before the election.

In reality, a group of Washington spin doctors are trying to divert the nation's attention away from an alleged affair President Clinton had with ex-intern Monica Lewinsky.

In "Wag the Dog," the spin doctors and producers decide the only way to shift the attention is to stage a war.

With the help of the latest technology and active imaginations, the producers create and manipulate images which lead the public to believe the United States is going to war with Albania. Unbeknownst to Albania, the country has become a hot bed of nuclear weapons and a terrorism threat to the United States.

But before anyone could catch on to the plan, an agreement was reached between the two countries.

"I can't believe how similar the movie was to what is actually taking place today."

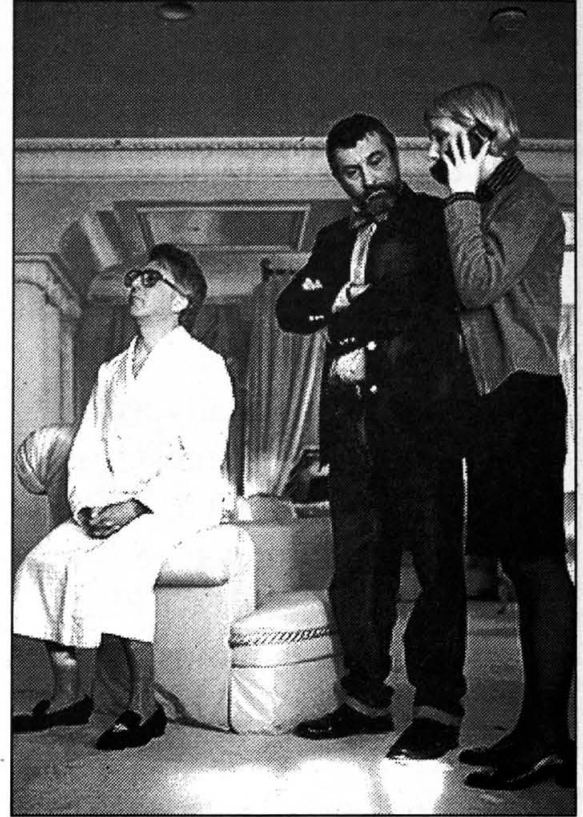
- Lisa Johnson
University of Illinois, Chicago

Currently, the possibility of the United States going to war with Iraq looms large. Soon after the Lewinsky story broke, the situation with Iraq worsened. The possibility of Iraq hiding weapons of mass destruction from U.N. inspectors seemed to be the catalyst for the impending action. President Clinton appeared on television and told the public the United States would be prepared to use force against Iraq for as long as was necessary.

During the tense days that followed, it seemed the controversy surrounding Clinton and the young intern faded into the background. However, the picture of President Clinton as a strong commander-in-chief dominated the airwaves. As the deadline approached before action was to be taken, a tentative agreement was reached.

Although "Wag the Dog" was made months before the Clinton-Lewinsky story broke, the similarities are striking.

"I can't believe how similar the movie was to what is actually taking place today," says Lisa Johnson a political science major at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "It made me wonder if the situation with Iraq is as bad as Clinton says or if it all staged to stop everyone from talking about the Lewinsky story."



Anne Heche, Robert DeNiro and Dustin Hoffman in "Wag the Dog," a fictional story that has become almost true-to-life.

"The Memory of Water"

By Jennifer Strauss
Staff Writer

It is time to truly treat yourself. After a hectic week at school indulge yourself this weekend in a performance of "The Memory of Water," at the Steppenwolf Theatre. Shelagh Stephenson's portrayal of three sisters reunion after their mother's death is both warm and witty.

The three main characters, Theresa, Mary and Catherine electrify the stage with their honest dialogue and unique qualities. Each sister allows you to experience a piece of her past, present and hopes for the future.

Stephenson's script permits each character to bare their deepest emotions, in relation to their mother's passing, with overwhelming sincerity. While each sister has taken a different path in life, their reunion proves that there is truly a bond of sisterhood despite their separateness.

Stephenson's depiction of this sisterly alliance reveals the problem of denial, the need for laughter and the importance of memories when losing a loved one. While the play takes on the heavy subject of death, it is imaginatively eased with Stephenson's use of humor and charm.

"The Memory of Water," will be at the Steppenwolf Theatre through March 29, on the theatre's mainstage at 1650 N. Halsted Street. It is a comic and poignant play that you don't want to miss.

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Finding solace in the Light

Madonna returns amidst an ocean of electronica on *Ray of Light*, an album that finds the one-time Material Girl coming to terms with the one thing that has eluded her all these years -- her past. Chronicle Music Geek Rob England dives in.

When 1997 rolled around the music world was desperate for a shot in the arm. Popular music had grown stagnant, alt-rock had run its course. Looking for inspiration, the music community looked at the trends overseas. What they found was a world of blips, beeps and sonic landscapes. Acts like The Chemical Brothers and Goldie ruled the clubs, and, as American record execs saw it, the future.

Thus the call came. "Electronica's coming. Electronica's coming."

The music world rejoiced. Bands embraced the trend. Journalists saw the promise of the new form. Record company execs no doubt sat back to reap their reward.

But they forgot about one thing — the public. While the music world embraced electronica, the listening public was hesitant at best. Brilliant albums by David Bowie and U2, were boycotted by old-school fans upset about the change in sound. The Chemical Brothers debuted high on the Billboard charts, then quickly spiraled off.

By the year's end, electronica acts were a dime a dozen. Just one short year after the revolution began it had started to fade.

Enter Madonna.

Known mostly for establishing the trends of the 80's, in the 90's her music has been inconsistent and has often taken the backseat to other projects including films and her dreaded book *Sex*. She has continued her attempts to be cutting-edge, but her efforts (especially *Erotica* and *Bedtime Stories*) have not had near the impact of her earlier albums.

So, in search of something new, Madonna too has embraced electronica. On her latest, *Ray of Light*, she dives into the electronic realm with the help of British techno guru William Orbit.

But is all this Madonna goes techno hype warranted?

Like the rest of her extensive catalog, *ROL* seems to be the benefactor of a mildly deceitful marketing scheme. Billed as the Material Girl's maiden voyage into the techno realm, it is hardly the first time she has toyed with the genre. Much like with U2's widely underappreciated *Pop* album (released, ironically enough, a year to the day before *ROL*), the territory being explored is not foreign. U2 experimented with electronica on *Achtung Baby* and *Zooropa*. Madonna has played with it on every remix single released in the past five years. This is just the first time it has been brought to the attention of many American listeners.

So, to answer my own question, no, all the hype about Madonna's techno trip are not warranted. But all the hype about the album indeed is.

The first full-length album of original material released since 1994's *Bedtime Stories*, *ROL* introduces the new Madonna to the world. Gone is the

loose-lipped girl who sang brazenly about her sexual expeditions. That was the single, carefree Madonna. Now we have the introspective, nurturing Madonna. The Pop Diva has been replaced by the Mother.

Though her views and image may have changed, her music is stronger than ever.

It is so strong, in fact, that for the first time since *Like A Prayer* she has created a pop album for the ages. *ROL* pulsates with energy, driven by Orbit's uptempo electronic production and Madonna's bouncy vocals.

In fact, Madonna's vocals are so startling you'd think it wasn't her singing at all. Thanks to the voice training she endured prior to *Evita*, her voice is incredibly strong and vibrant. Her words are perfectly enunciated, her range is as broad as ever, her delivery changes upon the mood of each song.

And there are an abundance of moods. From the indestructible bounciness of the title track to the Latin vibe that underscores "To Have And Not To Hold" to the 90's lullaby "Little Star," sang for her daughter Lourdes. *ROL* possesses 13 tracks, all distinctly different in aura and approach, though all cohesive as a whole.

Madonna can take all the credit for this. Thanks to her emotional words, she has allowed the listener to view her as something they probably never have before — a person.

We feel her pain, her joy, her love for her daughter. We see a Madonna we've never seen before. She's human, just like the rest of us. But through it all, she remains strong.

But then, on the thirteenth song on the thirteenth album, we see something new, the frail, tormented side of Madonna. With "Mer Girl" she comes to terms with something that has haunted her for over thirty years, the death of her mother to breast cancer. Though her father has been the subject of many a Madonna song, this is the first time her mother is the sole focus. The song, recorded in one take, features a hushed, timid Madonna, running from the haunting memory of her mother. Her voice is shaky and imperfect musically, but raw and powerful emotionally. She has never expressed such humility before in her music.

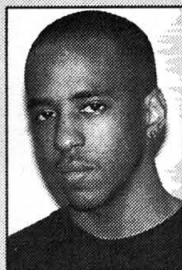
And that's the general feeling behind much of *Ray of Light*. It's personal, heartfelt, and touching. And it doesn't feel like an act. In the past, Madonna always had to be taken with a grain of salt. Now, however, her emotions seem genuine, and not forced in an attempt to sell more albums. Perhaps she's faking it once again, but to me it seems impossible to fake such heartfelt emotions.

Sure, Madonna probably won't set any new trends with *ROL*, but maybe, just maybe, she can help revive two — electronica and heart.



Power of our Rhythm

By Tim Mathews



Sargent and with music spun by DJ Jesse De La Pena (a legend in the making), the club packed in at least 300 heads every Monday night.

Whenever MC's needed a place to chill or kick a freestyle, the "Bo" (as it was lovingly called) was the haven for it all. Artists from in and outside the "Chi" who rocked the place included Da Brat, Wyclef Jean of the Fugees, Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott and Chitown's favorite son Common.

The reason why I feel the loss is deep was because the urban party scene in the city isn't consistent right now and hasn't been for the past few months. To do what they did in the neighborhood for so long showed that the community was involved in its own financial success. When I think of a Chicago alderman and redevelopment in the same sentence dealing with any subject, well, it doesn't spell the best of hopes for the people.

This shutout was for one reason only—too many black/hispanic people in a majority white community late at night. Although we still have Mercedes, The Tunnel, and The Warehouse, none of them have that no-room-to-move-but-it-still-feels-like-home feeling, and that's what made the Elbo Room not only the best promotional ground, but maybe the true place to be.

It makes me very happy to be able to pick up the paper and see feedback from my student body (yeah, there are tears in my eyes). Last weeks mention in Letters to the Editor may not be the last. In fact, next week I want the whole page covered with feedback about me whether it's positive or negative (Uptown baby!). I want to thank Ms. Grayson for writing in and I will try to answer the questions at hand to the best of my knowledge (What were they anyway? Just kid-

ding). There are many things you can do to break into the industry, but the following steps are what I believe to be a good foundation:

1. Writing—Most people these days believe in what I call the "Missy Method." That is writing for other people first, establishing a name that way. Sing the tracks that you try to sell to record labels for their artists and if you're the bomb, this is a sure shot. Before you get to this step make sure you're in a songwriting guild (BMI, ASCAP, SESAC), you've copywritten all of your selling material and you've hooked up with a publishing company with experience and networking expertise.

2. Organizations—Some people think you have to have loot to be down with a national music structure. NARAS (the people who decide the grammys), for example, not only have a branch here in the city, but have been trying for the longest to reach out to our talented community by hosting a variety of monthly talent shows. You have to be very assertive in finding the groups because they are only a few (Also start with college campuses, you'd be surprised!).

3. Libraries—A great place to start not only because there are books free to the public about the industry but because all the latest trade magazines are there. Harold Washington has a book called the *Recording Industry Sourcebook* that has just about every telephone number to every record label in the industry. I have other ways too but I'm afraid my little space has run out so next week I'll wrap it up for you and anyone else who may be interested.

Peace out and Much Love!

I hope everyone got a chance to listen to the WGCI homejam this past Tuesday because one of Chicago's high hopes in R&B music represented well on airwaves. **Everything and More**, a quintet of five women had their single "Fake Ones" aired and it's the bomb!

The girls all live on the westside of Chicago and have been singing together for almost five years (so you know dues have been paid). Their harmonic voices shouldn't be anything new for you radio listeners. They've done a lot of jingle work (intro music for the *Stone Pony/Gene Sparrow Show* on 107.5) as well as working background on some of Chicago's major/local talent. With a new LP scheduled for release this fall, the girls are almost assured to be a force to be reckoned with well into the next year.

I want to acknowledge the loss of a venue by way of a disruption in the community (or at least that's what they say). The infamous *Elbo Room's Hip-Hop* night ended after a nice run. Hosted by Walter "Dirte"

The award winning...

Sara on Sports

by Sara Willingham



By definition, *basketball* is, "A game played between two teams of five players each, the object being to throw the ball through an elevated basket on the opponent's side of the rectangular court."

Well, if that's all that *basketball* truly is, then you tell me why there seems to be an influx of basketball junkies roaming around, acting like they finally got their fix during the month of March.

The fact of the matter is that *there are* more happy hoop-addicts in March than any other month because of the sheer **MADNESS** of it all!

One week ago today, we headed down the final stretch in search of a Class AA girls' IHSA tournament champion. With hindsight, I will guess that the 1997 defending champs, Loyola, will walk away with the title again this year. Loyola's first game of the tourney was crucial...they skipped past Lake Zurich...again...so they'll most likely come out on top.

The boys' Class AA regionals also began last week. It was 19 tournaments in two days, with Class A sectional bouts starting right after that. Look for Quentin Richardson to lead Whitney-Young to a championship. I know, I know, how can I even remotely think that Young will knock-off the four-time defending champs, Peoria-Manual? It's simple, although Young has a longer, tougher road ahead of them than Manual, their top seed will see them through.

Remember, we are only one week into March, and it's already this intense. The rest of the month thickens with excitement, as the mens' and womens' NCAA tournaments will also result in the crowning of a couple of championship squads. And as we all know, college hoops is truly riveting around playoff time.

You would think that the high school champions would pass-off the basketball-junkie-baton to the college folks who would in-turn pass it to the pros as the month progresses. Nope. Sorry. The recent NCAA Conference tournaments, a.k.a. Championship Week, highly overshadowed the IHSA action. The Big Ten had their first post-season conference tournament this last week.

Finally, while all of the amateurs in the state (and their parents) successfully fight-off the terrible withdrawals associated with mid-season basketball ruts, the professionals spend the month of March winding down their season before launching the entire nation into a tizzy. This tizzy is more formally known as the NBA Championship Playoffs.

So as you can see, the third month of the year brings much relief to basketball fans who jones for tournament play all season long. They are constantly bombarded throughout March with some of the best hoop contests ever. Whether it's Whitney-Young, or Illinois, or the Bulls, you're gonna get a show.

If you think about it, that brings up a good point. If everyone spends the entire season looking forward to the various championships and playoffs, then why do we even bother with regular seasons?

Rather than have football in the fall, merging with basketball and hockey in the winter, which meshes with baseball in the spring that flows back into football in the fall, we should switch-off month to month.

Yah! We could have three weeks of NBA Playoffs (best 3 out of five or something), and crown a champion on the last weekend of the month. Then, next month, we could start a three week NFL Championship. That would mean three Superbowls a year! After that, let's have three weeks of NHL Playoff action, a quick Stanley Cup weekend, and jump right into baseball. Three weeks, then a Worlds Series.

My gosh, I think I've really stumbled upon something! If the basketball junkies would get their fix every three months, there would be no jonesing for playoffs! Same goes for the hockey addicts, the baseball druggies, and the strung-out football fans.

It would be **ultimate MADNESS!** It would be constant drafts, pre-seasons, post-seasons, playoffs, and championships. No sport would dominate any one time of the year more than any other sport. We'd all be high on sports all day...every day...no matter our "drug" of choice.

I suppose I have gotten carried away yet once again. If you really try to picture America in the millennium with a monthly sports agenda, it's scary. Things move fast enough year-to-year, let alone month-to-month. Besides, the current **MADNESS** that makes March what it is, is just about all the madness that any doctor would prescribe for any junkie of any sport. Peace.

Players remember: they *are* looked up toBy Dave Rawske
Sports Correspondent

Whether we like it, or not, sports figures are a representation of heroes in the minds and images of today's youth. Professional athletes not only represent their "respective" profession, but more importantly they inspire the children that view them as icons. By reinstating Latrell Sprewell into the NBA, on July 1, the credibility of professional athletes is now going to be questioned and scoped for many years to come.

The issue here is not of a basketball player violating NBA policy, but rather a more serious nature. The real issue here is a human being brutally attacking another human being—TWICE. What we have here is a disrespectful, self-serving, ignorant individual who has chosen to disregard decent behavior.

So basically, the ever-so-influenced arbitrator has stated, not in these exact words, that attacking and making malicious remarks in the work environment will be tolerated to a certain extent. Bottom Line- It should not be tolerated at all. So I'm having a bad day today, right? You know what, I think my boss is a real idiot, so I feel the need to choke him because I'm not happy with my life today.

The most disgusting thing about the whole thing is that the Golden State Warriors will have to pay the remaining \$24 Million dollars left on his contract. This is unless, of course, some other team chooses to match this amount. I would like to know where the justice is in this whole ordeal. The organization of the Golden State Warriors acted promptly, but unfortunately, not effectively. Even David Stern, the Commissioner of the NBA, voiced his disapproval of the early reinstatement. This is all coming from a man who is the epitome of a push-over. Ask Dennis Rodman.

The attack on Coach Carlessimo was not the first altercation Sprewell has been in. Since the beginning of his NBA career, Latrell has had a difficult time getting along with all the other little children. His ex-coach, Don Nelson, was another

person who Sprewell did not see eye-to-eye with. Tim Hardaway, an old teammate of Sprewell, has spoken out numerous amounts of time on the attitude he had towards authority and his fellow players in the NBA.

In 1994, Latrell Sprewell's four year-old daughter was attacked by one of his four pit bulls. She had suffered bite marks on her face, and had one of her ears severed. When later asked in the December issue of Sports Illustrated on how he felt about the whole incident, he had this to say: "People die every day. Maybe if it had been more serious, it would have effected me." This sounds like a man who really appreciates the God-given abilities he possesses.

Now that Latrell will be going back to work sooner than expected, maybe it is possible for this man to turn his reputation around. I believe everybody deserves a second, or maybe even third chance. But the punishment has not fit the crime. More time is necessary in order for Sprewell to grasp his role as a human being.

Sadly enough, his stock has now gone up. Past trends show that these negative incidents really do not deteriorate an athletes role in the game, but do in the minds of the people who pay his paychecks—the fans. They won't forget. One more disturbing argument that has been brought out in this incident, and that is the "Race Card." This whole thing had Johnny Cochran licking his chops. He should have folded, discarded this card, and moved on to what the real issue was. This is not Black vs. White. Nor is this an argument between a boss and his worker.

This is a conflict of a man physically abusing another man. That's it. There's nothing more to look into. What Mr. Sprewell deserved was a swift kick in the ass, not a soft little slap on the wrist. Nobody wrapped their hands around his neck and ordered him to do the same. He was the one who chose to trade in fame for infamy. Maybe now this infamy will turn into something we all expect from these lime-lighters...Fortitude.

Pat Garrity of Notre Dame a serious student, a serious basketball player

By Jim Donaldson
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

PROVIDENCE—Pat Garrity has put up some impressive numbers in his four years at Notre Dame.

And I'm not talking about his Big East Conference-leading 23.3 points per game scoring average.

Nor the 21.1 points and 7.4 rebounds he averaged a game last season, when he was voted Big East Player of the Year.

He's among the top 10 in the conference this year in rebounding (8.3), field-goal percentage (.484) and free-throw percentage (.746), but those aren't his most dazzling numbers, either.

The numbers that are stunning, the numbers that almost knock you off your feet, the numbers that cause you to shake your head and wonder "Wow! How does he do it?" are these: a 3.703 grade-point average, including a 3.917 GPA last spring, while majoring in biochemistry.

Most athletes wouldn't dream of taking a course in either biology or chemistry.

And, if they did, their "academic advisers" would tell them they were out of their minds.

At a time when the term "student-athlete" has become a joke, Garrity is a serious student.

He's one of the few big-time college athletes whose course schedule is tougher than his playing schedule.

Despite the demands of a basketball season that takes a big chunk of time in both semesters, despite playing a high-pressure schedule that takes him away from class to Connecticut, Syracuse, West Virginia, and, this afternoon, Providence, Garrity has earned outstanding grades in organic chemistry, physical chemistry, genetics, and cell biology.

"School has always been important to me," he said earlier this week, before scoring 24 points in the second half, including a clutch, 3-point basket down the stretch to help the Irish beat Georgetown, 79-69.

"I just like to do well. I've always been the kind of person who took pride in how well I did, whether it was in school, or on the basketball court."

"I don't 'dog it' in practice. It's the same in the classroom. If I get a bad grade, it's a poor reflection on me."

There are some schools where incoming athletes don't have to take required courses because, well, they're just not ready to take them, and there's no way they could pass them.

Well, truth be told, Garrity was excused from taking calculus as a freshman at Notre Dame.

Of course, that was because his score on the advanced placement test was so high.

At a time when many athletes far too many, particularly in basketball struggle to achieve a mini-

mum qualifying score on the SAT, Garrity could have done it by taking either half of the test and simply signing his name to the other.

"There are different standards for athletes, and there shouldn't be," Garrity said.

He takes it as a personal challenge, a personal responsibility, not merely to measure up to the standard academically or athletically but to exceed it.

"I kind of set a standard for myself. I've had to study quite a bit in order to keep up with all the work."

"It wasn't easy, because I'm the king of procrastinators. I save a lot of stuff to do on weekend afternoons."

"The most difficult thing was my labs. They cut into practice time. Sometimes, I'd have to go back on my own to finish my work."

Garrity never went looking for a break because he was an athlete. He never asked to be cut any slack, never looked for favors.

"The way things are these days, where, in the summer, kids play on teams sponsored by shoe companies and have everything given to them, a lot of guys come into college thinking people owe them."

"They think that people are going to look after them, take care of them, because they're someone special."

"It's a dangerous thing when higher education, which is serious business, starts making compromises. It sends the message to these guys that they don't have to work for themselves; that people will get them things, do things for them. It creates laziness."

"There's something to be said for giving a guy a chance. It's great if a guy works hard, and earns a degree. But, if they're allowed to just skate through, then it devalues the degree from that university."

Unlike some university presidents, who seem to care more about athletic success than academic reputation, Garrity has his values, and his priorities, in order.

For Garrity, being in a pre-professional program meant preparing for medical school, not the NBA although he's sure to be first-round pick this spring.

"Pat," said Notre Dame coach John MacLeod, "is what college basketball and college athletics are all about. He is a super student, a great player, and a wonderful person."

A member of the U.S. national 22-and-under team last year that played in the world championships in Australia, Garrity didn't spend a whole lot of time discussing biochemistry with his new teammates.

"I didn't bring it up," he said. "I kept it to myself, because I knew the kind of response it would generate."

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